

August 10 2025



Grace Notes

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ABCDEF...Safe

Prayer for Safe Schools

Monday August 25 and
Monday September 8

3:15 to 3:45

We will gather at the corner of 120th and North Ave. We will lift up a group prayer before we wave signs of support and love to the cars and pedestrians. Our goal is to remind people how much they are cared for and how important safe schools are for the community.

Bring a sign or borrow one of ours.

Please dress for the weather.

Bring a chair if you'd like.

Let's show the community we support our students, teachers, and staff



mtzionlutheran.org

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12012 W North Ave

Wauwatosa, WI 53226

While We're Away

Pastor Tyler will be on the Pine Ridge Youth Trip from Sunday, August 10 through August 17. He will return to the office Monday, August 18.

If you need Pastoral Care while Pastor Tyler is out of the office please contact:

Pastor Kevin Kretzmann Farrar
office number 414-774-0441
email PastorKevin@StMattsTosa.org,
cell: 925-324-3978.



Jessica will also be on the Pine Ridge Youth trip. During this time the church office will be closed.

There will be no Grace Notes for August 17. The calendar for August 17-24 is available on page 4.

Enjoy the extra insights and fun from this week's jumbo edition.



Stayed tuned for video reports from our Youth during their trip to Pine Ridge. Reports will be posted on our social media accounts:

facebook.com/mtzionlutheran
instagram.com/mtzionlutheran
youtube.com/mtzionlutheran



August 10 to August 17

Sun Aug 10	9:00am MZY Trip Departs for Pine Ridge, SD 9:30am Worship service
Mon Aug 11	6:00pm Property Committee Meeting 7:00pm Knit One, Pray Too 7:00pm NA 12 Step Meeting Fellowship Hall
Tues Aug 12	Noon AA 12 Steps Meeting Room 211 6:30pm Troop 27 Meeting 6:30pm Hands of AA 12-Step Meeting Upper Room
Wed Aug 13	12:00pm Brown Bag Bible Study 1:00pm Prayer Warriors 1:00pm Tosa Cares Donations Drop Off
Thurs Aug 14	
Friday Aug 15	6:00pm ACA 12 Step Group Room 100
Sat Aug 16	
Sun Aug 17	9:30am Worship Service MZY Trip Returns from Pine Ridge, SD
Next Week	Public Theology

Zoom Worship, Brown Bag Meeting, Book Club ID: 841 6597 2335
Passcode: 12012

August 17 to August 24

Sun Aug 17	9:30am Worship service
Mon Aug 18	6:00pm Leadership Board Meeting 7:00pm NA 12 Step Meeting Fellowship Hall
Tues Aug 19	Noon AA 12 Steps Meeting Room 211 6:30pm Hands of AA 12-Step Meeting Upper Room 6:30pm Outreach Meeting
Wed Aug 20	12:00pm Brown Bag Bible Study 1:00pm Prayer Warriors 1:00pm Tosa Cares Donations Drop Off 4:30pm Staff Meeting
Thurs Aug 21	5:30pm Public Theology
Friday Aug 22	6:00pm ACA 12 Step Group Room 100
Sat Aug 23	
Sun Aug 24	9:30am Outdoor Worship Service 10:40am Cookout
Next Week	

August 10 Volunteers

Altar Care: Andy, Jen, and Talula Johnston

Assisting Minister: Lynda Yanny

Lector: John Yanny

Communion, bread: Refilwe Magasa-Bockhorst

Communion, wine: Gabby Goll, John and Lynda Y.

Ushers: Dave Fohr and Suzy Morgan

Greeter: Kent and Margie Spicer

Audio/Visual: Erik Peterson and Abby Sumiec

Tellers: Brad Hext and Tom Morgan

Volunteer Schedule: mtzionlutheran.org/pages/member-resources

Thank you to all our amazing worship volunteers for your time and efforts!

August 17 Volunteers

Altar Care: Susan Kenny, Linda Havlicek, Mavis Roesch

Assisting Minister: Mavis R.

Lector: Janet McCarthy

Communion, bread: Janet M.

Communion, wine: Mavis R., Jenny Hawes, Erik Peterson

Ushers: Suzy Morgan and Dave Nelson

Greeter: Bob and Nancy Schrap

Audio/Visual: Mary and Douglas Johnson

Tellers: Roy Durrenberg and John Link

Volunteer Schedule: mtzionlutheran.org/pages/member-resources

Access the Prayer List

<https://bit.ly/4l2APJB>

The printed prayer list is updated
every two weeks.



Submit prayer requests

Email: pastor@mtzionlutheran.org

Call: 414-258-0456

Write: on the prayer cards at the
prayer share wall in the
north narthex.

Sacred Storytime

Are you looking for a Bible story told for kids, complete with music, silly characters and captured in a bite-sized podcast format? Look no further than Sacred Storytime with Pastor Priscilla!

What happens during an episode of Sacred Storytime with Pastor Priscilla?

At the heart of each episode of Sacred Storytime is the retelling of a biblical story. Through lively and thoughtful conversation with a small cast of characters, a story is chosen to be relevant to the lives of the children in our audience and their families. In general, a simple issue is introduced to the listener and by the end of the story, the characters work out a solution with progressive Christian values and a little common sense.

How does the idea that “the church is not a building” relate to this podcast?

The concept of Sacred Storytime was born in a Zoom room and was lived out in family dens across the Seattle region since the COVID-19 pandemic. We were able to remotely engage young people through skits with plush-toys who asked questions of the pastor in our living room. This is our evidence that God’s stories cannot be confined by walls and is not solely contained between the covers of a Bible. By telling stories that relate to the lives of children, we are reminded that **God’s mission** is not limited by age. It’s in all of us and all of creation.

What else do you want podcast listeners to know?

As we lovingly say - in every closing episode, God made [us all] quirky and loves [us all] a large amount. We want listeners to know that there isn’t anything that can separate you from God’s abundant LOVE. You can listen to Sacred Storytime with Pastor Priscilla wherever you get your podcasts.

You can find all the episodes here:

pastorpriscillapa.podbean.com

or Listen to Sacred Storytime on Podbean, Spotify, Amazon Music, iHeart Radio, PlayerFM, or Pod-chaser.

Each episode is about 10-15 minutes in length. Currently there are 12 episodes available on the website linked above. Sacred Storytime with Pastor Priscilla is provided to you by The Unbridled Presence Program at Augsburg Fortress Publishers and Austin-Agency.org



Churchwide Assembly

2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly



Photo courtesy: Aug. 2



Photo courtesy: Aug. 2



Photo courtesy: Aug. 2



Photo courtesy: Aug. 2

Interested in what happened at the ELCA Churchwide Assembly?

If you would like to watch the reports, voting, and amendments from the ELCA Churchwide Assembly which took place last week, you can access all the sessions on Living Lutheran.

Over the next few weeks, if you want to share things from Churchwide Assembly:

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/tag/2025-elca-churchwide-assembly/>



Watch these awesome highlights.

Final Report from Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton: youtu.be/9uosx6JemhM

Meet Presiding Bishop Elect Yehiel Curry: https://youtu.be/f-P_fMDfj4U

Report from Vice President Imran Siddiqui: <https://youtu.be/IEYX-yVTvHU>

Report from Bishop Elect of the Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land Imad Haddad: https://youtu.be/NuPxkm7F_w4

Video from the Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land: <https://youtu.be/Uf21KYLJf4M>

Report from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada: <https://youtu.be/P-ZyyzDVt7U>

And let's not forget all the amazing sermons!

Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton: <https://youtu.be/lh6eZLLc2p8>

Rev. Nelson Rivera Garcia: <https://youtu.be/wohk8cDpUyU>

Rev. Imad Mousa Dawood Haddad: <https://youtu.be/S3HwdE65StU>

Rev. Chad Rimmer: <https://youtu.be/bviD2-4871M> (theological presentation)

Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie: https://youtu.be/ZDF0tr-WR_0

Rev. Wyvetta Bullock: <https://youtu.be/0e4-h4CIPqo?si=FZXysMI-5j0uTcqW>

Reading, Writing, A Meal or Two

"Israel has killed over 18,000 children so far. That's one child killed every hour. An average of 27 children are killed each day. That's equal to an entire classroom of children killed everyday for nearly 2 years." (Al Jazeera English).

The humanitarian Crisis in Gaza worsens everyday and it is particularly acute for children. Where they once played in parks and went to school, they have had to take on the mantle of finding food and carrying water. They mourn those family and friends they lost, but they also mourn the kids they once were. A girl named Lana has seen her young hair whiten and her skin pigmentation change, likely a result of trauma.

According the United Nations , and its agency which supports children, UNICEF, children have the right to safety, health, education as well as play and rest.



[youtube.com/watch?v=LnaAKYKLzdE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LnaAKYKLzdE)

Lutheran Disaster Response continues to work with partners in the Holy Land to provide:

- ♥ Immediate food, water, and clothing and shelter
- ♥ Medical Supplies for hospitals and clinics
- ♥ Mental Health support and trauma healing interventions
- ♥ Emergency education support, which enables schools to continue operating even and provides school meals
- Support for people living with intellectual disabilities
- ♥ Accommodations and food for hospital staff



If you would like to support Lutheran Disaster Response, you can do so online at ELCA.org. Or you can make out a check to Mt Zion and put "Lutheran Disaster Response" in the memo. We will collect your offerings along with others' from the congregation and then send out one larger check from Mt Zion.

Currently, there are 36 dollars in the Lutheran Disaster Response fund through Mt Zion. Can we get to \$250 by September 1? `



Hunger in the Heartland

Gifts to ELCA World Hunger can reach your siblings in Christ who are caught in a cycle of hunger and poverty—half a world away and just down the street.

“[Jesus said,] ‘Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?’ [The expert in the law] said, ‘The one who showed him mercy.’ [Jesus] said to him, ‘Go and do likewise.’”

—Luke 10:36-37



I want to tell you about Christine (name changed for privacy), who lives in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula. Recently Christine was staying in a women’s shelter in a rural area where grocery stores are miles apart and difficult to reach. Often Christine was left wondering where her next meal would come from.

The number of people experiencing homelessness in Christine’s county has doubled since 2020. Between 2023 and 2024, homelessness in the United States has increased by 18%, affecting about 770,000 people, according to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

With your help, ELCA World Hunger reaches Christine and her neighbors through projects such as the Welcome Home program in Wisconsin and northern Michigan. Caseworkers get to know each Welcome Home participant and help them **secure permanent housing and connect to education, job skills training, and mental and physical health care.** Participants can also access a food pantry, receive vouchers to local grocery stores and take classes on how to prepare nourishing meals.

Unfortunately, Welcome Home often struggles to keep up with the demand for its programs — sometimes it lacks enough fresh produce for everyone in the community who needs it. [Give to ELCA World Hunger today and you can help fill the gap by sharing food, safety, justice and hope with Christine and others like her.](#)

Rev. John Eggen
Senior Director, Annual Giving
ELCA

Currently, there are \$65 in the ELCA World Hunger fund through Mt Zion. Can we get to \$250 by September 1?

Legacy and Will Planning

PLANNING FAITHFULLY FOR THE FUTURE

Explore the ELCA Foundation’s online planning library, your go-to resource for building a legacy rooted in faith. Whether you’re just starting to consider your options or finalizing your plans, you’ll find practical tools and inspiration to guide every step of your estate-planning journey.

<https://foundation.elca.org/your-planning-library>



August is National Make a Will Month

Did you know the ELCA offers FREE tools for creating a will that is valid in all 50 states, along with other documents like durable power of attorney and advanced health care directives? If you don't have any of these important documents, check out foundation.elca.org/giving-docs for all these FREE resources. With a few simple forms, you can create your will today!

Even allows you to list your pets so you can assign a pet caretaker.



New Tax Laws

WHAT THE NEW TAX LAW MEANS FOR YOUR GIVING

Big tax changes are coming in 2026. Learn how they could impact your charitable giving and what steps to take in 2025 to prepare.

Changes to the tax code beginning January 1, 2026, could affect how — and when — you choose to give to and other nonprofits.

What's new:

1. **Tax benefit for non-itemizers** Even if you don't itemize, you can deduct up to **\$1,000 (single filers) or \$2,000 (married couples)**. So even **smaller donations** can make an impact. *Note: Gifts to donor advised funds are excluded.*
2. **New floor for itemizers** You will need to give at least 0.5% of your adjusted gross income (AGI) to claim a charitable deduction. Consider maximizing your giving in 2025 before the new rule takes effect.
3. **New limit for top earners** Currently, top earners get a 37-cent tax benefit for every \$1 deducted. Starting in 2026, that drops to 35 cents. If you are in the top tax bracket, consider giving more this year to avoid losing tax benefits next year.

What stays:

1. **Income tax brackets** The new law permanently extends the current tax rates.
2. **Standard deduction** For 2025, it will be \$15,750 for single filers and \$31,500 for married couples filing jointly. If you don't itemize, you may still benefit if you give appreciated stock, real estate, or, if you are 70½ or older, from your IRA.
3. **Deduction limit for cash gifts** You can still deduct cash gifts of up to 60% of your AGI. Consider combining your cash and non-cash assets (often called blended giving) to maximize your tax benefits and impact.
4. **Estate and gift tax exemption** It will increase to \$15 million per individual and \$30 million per married couple filing jointly. Your estate is likely under this amount, so focus on current giving to receive tax benefits.

Want to make the most of a gift to the ELCA Foundation in 2025? Contact Josh Kerney at 773-380-2774 or giftplanning@elca.org. We'd be happy to discuss the best ways you can create a legacy.

Word Search



YOUTH TRIP PACKING LIST

WORD SEARCH



D E G X S C R K D N T D A A S
D L A G I A O F T N O D V H O
C F P C S M U M U S I C A S U
K F N R Z E T Y W F L D U M V
B U K N H R H Z W M E S W X E
C D L S N A C K S S T K A S N
C P I L O C L K T A R N H Z I
B I B L E C R N H O I W E T R
M L U M E O K C O C E T R A C
P L L R W D I S E V S R B D A
C O Y M T Z S H I R T V O J S
P W R T V J E N A M Q P T I H
G I Z H I K I N G B O O T S R
F S T A M P S Z C N A I L Y N
K R P P B O A R D G A M E S O



CAMERA
BIBLE
HIKING BOOTS
SNACKS
PILLOW

TOILETRIES
WATER BOTTLE
SHADES
MUSIC
STAMPS

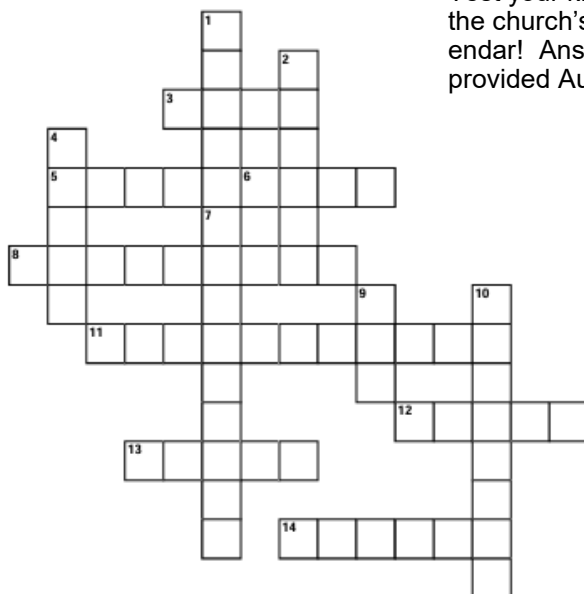
BOARD GAMES
MTZSHIRT
SOUVENIR CASH
SOCKS
DUFFLE



Crossword Puzzle

Seasons of the Church

Test your knowledge of the church's liturgical calendar! Answers will be provided August 24.



Across

- [3]** Used sparingly in Lutheran vestments.
[5] The number of months fully within Ordinary time.
[6] The season leading up to Easter.
[8] The liturgical clothing worn by Pastors.
[11] These volunteers have to know about the different seasons so they can put out the appropriate colors.
[12] Represents joy.
[13] Pastor wears this around his neck and it changes with the seasons and holidays.
[14] Eagle-eyed observers will notice Pastor Tyler also carries a different color of this based on the holiday.

Down

- [1]** Ordinary time symbolizes the chance for the church to _____.
[2] The start of a new liturgical year, before Christmas.
[4] The twelve days of Christmas are take place _____ December 25.
[7] Symbolized by the color red.
[9] Represents the Holy Spirit.
[10] This time of the year is signified by the color green.

Steve's Science Tidbits

Pigs and Xenotransplantation

Stage 5 kidney failure, also known as end-stage renal disease (ESRD), is the final, permanent stage of chronic kidney disease. The most common contributing factors are diabetes and high blood pressure that over time cause a gradual loss of kidney filtering ability that eventually leads to near-total organ failure. The buildup of toxins and waste products makes these patients so desperately ill that they require three or more painful and tiring dialysis sessions per week.

Effective dialysis does not reverse damage to the kidneys; it merely enables the patient's survival. Consequently, most patients are on kidney transplant wait lists, but the dearth of suitable human kidney donors creates a seemingly hopeless situation for many. Yet there is hope: it's called xenotransplantation.

Xenotransplantation is the transplantation of living cells, tissues, or organs from one species to another, typically from animals to humans. There is currently a massive movement underway to genetically engineer compatible organs from pigs for use in humans. Porcine organs, especially their heart and kidneys, are particularly attractive because of their similarity in size to human organs. Once a pipe dream, the use of revolutionary genetics techniques is making the dream feasible.

The biggest challenge in organ transplantation is rejection, due to genetic heterogeneity between donor and recipient. Family members make the best donors for obvious reasons, but even their organs can be rejected. Regardless of the source, people with transplants must take immunosuppressive drugs for the rest of their lives to dampen the immune system, so the use of foreign donor tissues poses an even more difficult immunological challenge.

The following is the blueprint for designing a lifesaving kidney.:

1. A pig tissue sample is evaluated to ensure there are no issues that will interfere with the gene-editing process.
2. Four problematic pig-specific genes (that code for the expression of dangerous antigens) are removed by CRISPR technology to prevent viral diseases and rejection.
3. Seven human genes are inserted into the sample's DNA that will protect the future kidney from inflammation, cell damage and coagulation—and also trick the human immune system into accepting the foreign organ.
4. The edited DNA is then fused with nuclei of fetal pig embryo cells, and the embryo is implanted into a sow that will give birth to piglets capable of growing human-ready kidneys.
5. When the piglets reach adulthood, their kidneys can be harvested and prepared for transplant. After the organs are transplanted into humans, patients will still be required to take immunosuppressive drugs to prevent rejection.

Continued on the bottom of page 11

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

Adam C. 8/1	Refilwe M. 8/10	Mickey F. 8/22
Carol C. 8/1	Mia B. 8/13	Megan B. 8/22
Brad H. 8/1	Dom G. 8/13	Jenni P. 8/24
Jenny H. 8/2	Mark S. 8/17	Lauren C. 8/26
Jada G. 8/4	Jennifer D. 8/17	Spencer J. 8/26
Edie D. 8/5	Tammy C. 8/20	Amanda W. 8/28
Doris J. 8/6	Vicki C. 8/21	Liz A. 8/28
Jesse M. 8/6	Carter C. 8/21	Kurt K. 8/29
Tom W. 8/7	Katie F. 8/21	Grace B. 8/30
Quintin P. 8/8	Karen C. 8/21	Julie B. 8/31
Barb V. 8/9	Taylor U. 8/21	

Wedding Anniversaries

Sara and Dave B. 8/2	Liz and Keith A. 8/15
Adam and Elizabeth F. 8/8	Tom and Linda E. 8/16
Mitch and Kelsey L. 8/11	Mavis and Jerry R. 8/21
Meghann and Brad S. 8/11	Elmer and Loretta B. 8/25
Erin M. & Drae S. 8/11	Dave and Debbie F. 8/27
Kevin and Gloria C. 8/14	

Science Tidbits (continued)



(Continued from page 10)

In January of this year, as part of a three-patient, FDA-approved trial at Boston Mass General Hospital, Tim Andrews received a pig transplant kidney. Previously physically incapacitated, he's now free of agonizing dialysis, and with an invigorated body he works out twice a week, goes on long walks with his dog, and helps with chores around the house. He also meets online every week with a support group to "give hope to everybody else who is on dialysis or is struggling with kidney disease."

Steve Downs

At Mt Zion we are
Joyfully growing disciples in Christ
so that
Everyone we meet comes to know themselves as a reflection of
God's image, worthy of life and love
by prioritizing
Faith Community
Hospitality Justice

Mt Zion Staff

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Mike Marciniak, Secretary
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Abby Sumiec

Kevin Burke

Anna Kissel



**Church Office
Hours**

Monday — Friday 10:00am — 3:00pm

Stop by in-person, call 414-258-0456,
or email parishadmin@mtzionlutheran.org

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